



THE AL GREEN REPORT

Proudly Representing Texas' 9th Congressional District

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ASSISTING THE UNDERSERVED AND WORKING FAMILIES

Dear Friends:

Our commitment in Congress to authoring and passing legislation that assists the underserved and working families is continuing to yield results. In August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that national unemployment had dropped to its lowest rate, 7.4%, since December 2008.

However, there is more work ahead of us to assist those struggling economically. In the first session of the 113th

Congress, I introduced the Transportation for Heroes Act of 2013. This legislation would ensure that veterans will be eligible for discounted fares on public transportation—seniors and those with disabilities are currently eligible for this discount.

When the House of Representatives returns in September, we must continue the hard work reaching an agreement to reform our nation's immigration laws. We still have more work to do before we can reach a

deal that will allow us to craft a comprehensive bill that has a pathway to citizenship, border security, electronic employment verification, and family reunification.

Going forward, I will continue to work with my colleagues to pass legislation which moves our economy forward as well as invests in our communities.

Sincerely,
Al Green
Member of Congress

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GREEN LIGHT TO HEALTHY LIVING HEALTH FAIR

(Houston, TX)--On August 17, 2013, Congressman Al Green (TX-09), in conjunction with Community Health Choice, Houston Independent School District, hosted his ninth annual 'Green Light to Healthy Living' health fair at Westbury High School. The event provided free immunizations, health screenings, eye exams, dental screenings, as well as information assistance with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program to residents of the Texas Ninth Congressional District.

"This is the ninth year we have organized this health fair to encourage healthier living and regular check-ups in the community," Congressman Al Green said. "We want to continue to ensure that, to the extent we can provide it, all who need health care can get health care.

Health care should not be a privilege for a few but should be available to all."

Participating vendors provided immunizations for diphtheria, tetanus, Hepatitis A and B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, as well as meningitis. There were also tests for vision, diabetes, cholesterol, high blood pressure, and HIV, as well as free immunizations. Prizes included free backpacks with school supplies for the first 500 school-age children and a drawing for a bicycle.

"Events such as these are important because they offer check-ups and preventive care that can make emergency care unnecessary," Congressman Al Green said. "Additionally, the children who are here today will have the advantage of having a healthy start to the new school year."

Other sponsors included: Kids Vision for Life, Central Care, and Raindrop Turkish House, among others.



Congressman Al Green with (from left to right) Houston City Councilman Larry Green, CEO of the Rain Drop Foundation Mehmet Okumus, Westbury High School Principal Robert Harris, HISD Trustee Larry Marshall, and members of Congressman Al Green's staff.

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE BREAKFAST

(Houston, TX)—Congressman Al Green hosted a Fair Minimum Wage Breakfast, on August 15, 2013, with union leaders and local community leaders.

During the meeting, union leaders stressed the need to continue to raise the federal minimum wage, protect pensions and ensure job security, as well as place restrictions on the unnecessary outsourcing of American jobs.

During the current session of Congress, Congressman Al Green re-introduced the Original Living American Wage Act, which would maintain the minimum

wage at 15 percent above the poverty line.

Congressman Al Green emphasized his goals as a legislator during the meeting.

“I am committed to making sure the residents of the Ninth Congressional District have an opportunity to obtain a good job, fair pay, good benefits and safe working conditions that are consistent with American values.”



Congressman Al Green speaking at the Fair Minimum Wage Breakfast.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY IFTAR DINNER

(Houston, TX)—On July 27, 2013, Congressman Al Green joined other local elected officials in addressing the Annual Houston Community Iftar Dinner. Over 2000 people attended the event in honor of Muslims breaking their fast for the holy month of Ramadan.

“Houston has a diverse Muslim community known for its promotion of peace and charity,” Congressman Al Green said. “It was an honor to have Iftar with local leaders from the community.”



Congressman Al Green speaking at the Houston Community Iftar Dinner.

DOJ ADDS CATEGORIES TO UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF CONGRESSMAN AL GREEN

(Washington, DC)—On March 21, 2013, Congressman Al Green, and other Members of Congress, sent a letter to the DOJ’s Advisory Policy Board expressing their strong support for adding new categories to the FBI’s Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA) data collection mandate. The letter was in response to increasing reports of bias to various Members of Congress from constituents as well as leaders in the Sikh, Hindu, and Arab-American communities.

“We must learn from incidents like the Oak Creek, Wisconsin Sikh temple shooting,” Congressman Al Green said. “As a Member of Congress, I will continue to be an advocate against invidious discrimination, and work with my colleagues to ensure law enforcement has all the tools it needs to protect any potential victims.”

On August 2, 2013, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the tragic events at the Oak Creek, Wisconsin Sikh temple and because of recommendations from Congress, the Department will be adding a number of categories to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The hate-crime-tracking program will now include offenses committed against Sikh, Hindu, Arab, Buddhist, Mormon, Jehovah’s Witness and Orthodox Christian individuals.

“The Department of Justice has taken an important step in addressing the invidious discrimination, hatred, and threats directed at innocent communities, as well as individuals in our nation,” Congressman Al Green said. “.”

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(Houston, TX)—On August 15, 2013, Congressman Al Green hosted a legislative update to discuss immigration reform efforts, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the Texas Voter ID Law, as well as protecting Social Security and Medicare.

“I always appreciate the opportunity to inform constituents about what I am doing in Congress and the community to serve their interests,” Congressman Al Green said.



Congressman Al Green speaking at the Legislative Update Meeting.

MISSOURI CITY FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

(Houston, TX)—On July 4, 2013, Congressman Al Green, along with other local leaders, attended Missouri City's 29th Annual Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks Show. The public enjoyed games, rides, moonwalks, food, and fireworks.

Congressman Al Green made remarks to those in attendance about the importance of the noble ideals of our nation, the sacrifice of veterans, and the work still left to be done to realize these ideals.

"The Fourth of July is a time for our nation to reflect on

the sacrifices of our brave veterans and the work ahead of us in realizing the goal of equality under the law for all," Congressman Al Green said.



Congressman Al Green with (from left to right) Missouri City Councilman Danny Nguyen, Missouri City Councilman Jerry Wyatt, Missouri City Councilman Don Smith, Missouri City Mayor Allen Owen, Missouri City Councilman Floyd Emery, and State Rep. Ron Reynolds.

POSTAL INSTALLATION

(Houston, TX)—On August 9, 2013, Congressman Al Green attended the installation of Jean Carlotta Lovejoy as Postmaster for the city of Houston. Ms. Lovejoy will be handling operations and ensuring accuracy for the postal service for the city of Houston.



Congressman Al Green with (left to right) Houston District Manager William Mitchell, City of Houston Controller Ron Green, Justice of the Peace Hillary Green, new Postmaster of Houston Jean Carlotta Lovejoy, State Representative Alma Allen, and Houston City Council Member Wanda Adams.

"The post office is integral in the smooth operation of our great city," Congressman Al Green said. "I trust that Ms. Lovejoy will do her utmost in ensuring orderliness and accuracy in our postal system."

INDIA HOUSE URBAN YOUTH EXPLOSION

(Houston, TX)—On August 17, 2013, Congressman Al Green presented the India House's Annual Urban Youth Explosion with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition. The community-wide event included a barbecue, games, keynote speakers, community-building activities, networking, food, breakout sessions, and much more.

"India House is such a valuable part of our community," Congressman Al Green said. "The individuals there work so hard to put on programs like this to



Congressman Al Green presenting (from left to right) Andrea Flucas, Exxon Mobil Intern for India House, and Yolanda Benoit, Program Manager at India House a Certificate of Congressional Recognition.

ensure that our young people can reach their full potential."

MISSOURI CITY LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

(Houston, TX)—On August 8, 2013, Congressman Al Green addressed the Missouri City Leadership Luncheon. The mission of the luncheon series is to have community leaders discuss leadership strategies and tactics that



Congressman Al Green with (from left to right) Missouri City Councilman Danny Nguyen, Missouri City Mayor Allen Owen, Jerry Wyatt, Don Smith, Floyd Emery, and State Rep. Ron Reynolds.

they have used to be successful. This year, the public was able to hear from community leaders, including Mayor Allen Owen and State Rep. Ron Reynolds.

"Events like these are essential for the continued development and cultivation of our current as well as our next generation of leaders," Congressman Al Green said.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACES

The new Health Insurance Marketplace is an online marketplace where consumers can choose among numerous quality private health insurance plans and where tax credits are widely available to make the plan you choose affordable.

Key Dates: October 1, 2013 – Enrollment in the Marketplace begins.
January 1, 2014 – Health coverage in the Marketplace begins.

Here is an overview of some key things to know:
You will have a choice of many quality private health insurance plans:

- Every health insurance plan in the Marketplace will offer comprehensive coverage, from doctors to medications to hospital visits.
- The Marketplace will enable you to easily compare your insurance options based on price, coverage, quality, and other features important to you.
- All information on the health plans must be in easy-to-understand language and there can be no fine print.
- Every health insurance plan in the Marketplace is required to meet basic standards, including quality standards as well as access to a range of doctors and clinicians.
- Clear information on plan premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs must be provided, before you decide to enroll, so you know what you are buying.
- Every health insurance plan in the Marketplace will provide free coverage for preventive services.

Strong Consumer Protections Required of Plans:

- No denial for pre-existing conditions.
- No lifetime or annual limits.
- A cap on your out-of-pocket costs.
- Women are charged the same rates as men.

Tax Credits to Make Your Premiums Affordable:

- More than 80 percent of those buying coverage in the Marketplaces will qualify for premium tax credits, which will significantly cut premiums.
- The tax credits are provided immediately and directly to the health plan you have chosen – immediately lowering what you pay in monthly premiums.
- The tax credits are available on a sliding-scale for those with incomes between 100% and 400% of the poverty level (between \$23,500 to \$94,200 for a family of four in 2013).

Consumer Assistance and Enrollment Help: You will be able to apply for enrollment in the Marketplace in numerous ways:

- Online;
- By phone;
- By mail; or
- In-person.

Help will be available in the Marketplace to assist you in choosing and enrolling in the best private plan for you, including:

- A national toll-free call center: **1-800-318-2596**.
- A multilingual website with plan comparison tools: **Healthcare.gov**.
- Navigators, such as community organizations, that will provide you impartial, unbiased assistance in evaluating which plan best meets your needs.

Source: Democratic Leader's Office

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